

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013

Agenda Item: Birch Creek Right of Way Public Land Lease Agreement

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Endorse Course of Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

FWP proposes to purchase a long-term Right-of-Way (ROW) lease agreement across private land to provide hunting access to land owned and administered by the BLM in South Blaine County. The proposed ROW is on an existing two-track road that extends into the Missouri River Breaks in Hunting District 680. The portion of the road proposed for the long-term ROW lease agreement crosses approximately 3 miles of private land before connecting to BLM land. The ROW agreement would provide long-term hunting access for bighorn sheep, mule deer and upland game bird hunting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

An EA and subsequent public involvement is presently under development, pending FWP Commission endorsement.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposed Action: FWP proposes to purchase a long-term Right-of-Way (ROW) lease agreement from a willing landowner across private land to provide hunting access to a large block of BLM land within Hunting District 680. FWP would secure long-term hunting access to this land primarily for bighorn sheep, mule deer and upland bird hunting opportunities.

No Action alternative: FWP would forgo the opportunity to purchase a needed ROW lease agreement to a large block of public land. Should the property sell or the landowner have a change in management, public access would be lost or severely curtailed.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends approval by the FWP Commission to proceed with long-term ROW lease agreement negotiation and purchase with a willing landowner. This project will provide long-term hunting access to a large block of public land in Hunting District 680.

Proposed Motion

I move the FWP Commission endorse the recommendation to begin negotiations for a long-term ROW lease agreement to provide hunting access to BLM lands in Hunting District 680.